

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed on October 31, 2007, the Examiner identifies seven independent or distinct species and requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species under 35 U.S.C. Section 121 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted to if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

According to the Office Action, the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

The electrical abnormality is one of a:

- I. Ground fault
- II. Arc fault
- III. Appliance leakage fault
- IV. Equipment leakage fault
- V. Immersion detection fault
- VI. Reverse wiring condition
- VII. Open neutral condition

Applicants elect species I, ground fault, for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, according to the Office Action, Claims 72-81, 83, 84, 86-98, 100-104, 106-100, 112-128, 130, 132-139, 141-148, 150-157 and 159-161 are generic and these claims encompass the elected invention.


It is respectfully submitted that two or more of the electrical abnormalities cited by Claims 82, 99, 131 and 149 may occur at the same time in a single fault, such as, for example, if current is arcing from hot to a ground conductor, this is a fault which is both a

ground fault and an arc fault. Therefore, even if a single fault is detected by the claimed circuit interrupting device, this fault may actually be characterized as a fault of more than one type.

Upon the allowance of an independent generic claim, Applicants reserve the right to the consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of the present application, he is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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